THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) Government of NCT of Delhi have informed that they have issued directions to all recognized unaided schools of NCT of Delhi to grant a minimum of 20% freeship to the children belonging to economically weaker sections of the society. Compliance of the order is being ensured through District Deputy Directors of Education and Education Officers of NCT of Delhi. Provisions of Delhi School Education Act and Rules, 1973 provide for deterrent action in case of default.

Relaxation in eligibility conditions

2673. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Ph.D holder, in science or other fields, but not holding a B.Ed. qualifications is not considered for the post of teacher in the schools, while he is made eligible for a teaching job in the colleges;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether this does not tantamount to frustration among the highly qualified deserving persons;

(d) whether Government would relax the eligibility conditions specially for those holding Ph.D qualifications to boost their morale; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) The National Council for Teacher Education has, in its Regulations, laid down B.Ed as an essential qualification for teachers in Secondary and Senior Secondary Schools. NCTE is empowered by the relevant Act of Parliament to lay down guidelines in respect of minimum qualifications for a person to be employed as a School Teacher.

(b) Because NCTE considers it necessary for school teachers to possess a professional qualification.

(c) Persons with higher qualifications have many other avenues of employment.

(d) and (e) Under the relevant Regulations, National Council for Teacher Education has powers to grant relaxation on receipt of a reference from the concerned State Government, to the extent it considers necessary.

Mahila Samakhya Karyakram

†2674. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the States where Mahila Samakhya Karyakram is being run at present;

(b) the basis on which the States are selected for 'Mahila Samakhya Karyakram;

(c) whether Government have received any proposal to include the 'Mahila Samakhya Karyakram' of Madhya Pradesh in 'Rashtriya Mahila Samakhya Karyakram'; and

(d) if so, by when the concurrence would be accorded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (d) The Mahila Samakhya Karyakram is operational in 9 States *viz.* Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Uttaranchal and Uttar Pradesh. Mahila Samakhya Programme is sanctioned to States which request for the programme. A proposal for restarting the programme in Madhya Pradesh has been received. The States approved for coverage under the Mahila Samakhya Programme so far, for the 10th Plan period are limited to the 9 States mentioned above.

Elections of student unions

†2675. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that elections of student unions have not been conducted in certain Central Universities for the last so many years;

(b) if so, details thereof, State-wise;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.